

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1. (currently amended): A panel constructed of a material for installation on a ceiling as a component of a matrix grid of multiple said panels, with each said panel comprising:

~~at least one~~two side edges of each said panel having a flange extension along at least a portion of the length of said side edge;

said side edge of said panel which immediately adjoins said flange extension having a ~~concave female indentation~~ interlock component along at least a portion of the length of said side edge;

the interior of said ~~concave female~~ interlock component ~~indentation~~ having two opposing interior surfaces, one of which is a flat interior surface and the other of which has one or more protrusions, with said protrusions directed toward said flat interior surface;

each side edge of said panel not having said flange extension and not having said ~~concave female~~ interlock component ~~indentation~~ having instead a male interlock component ~~extension~~; and

said protrusions on said interior wall of said ~~concave female~~ interlock component ~~indentation~~ being configured and positioned to mesh with and interface with the male interlock component ~~extension~~ upon the male interlock

componentextension being inserted into said ~~concave-female~~ interlock
componentindentation.

Claim 2. (currently amended): A panel constructed of material for installation on a ceiling as a component of a matrix grid of multiple said panels, with each said panel comprising:

~~at least one~~two side edges of each said panel having a flange extension along at least a portion of the length of said side edge;

said side edge of said panel which immediately adjoins said flange extension having a ~~concave-female~~ interlock componentindentation along the length of said side edge;

the interior of said ~~concave-female~~ interlock componentindentation having two opposing surfaces, one of which is flat and the other of which has one or more convex protrusions, with said protrusions directed toward said flat interior surface;

each side edge of said panel not having said flange extension and not having said ~~concave-female~~ interlock componentindentation having instead a male interlock componentextension;

said convex protrusions on said interior wall of said ~~concave-female~~ interlock componentindentation being configured and positioned to mesh with and interface with the male interlock componentextension upon the male

interlock component~~extension~~ being inserted into said ~~concave-female~~
interlock component~~indentation~~.

Claim 3. (currently amended): A panel constructed of material for installation on a ceiling as a component of a matrix grid of multiple said panels, with each said panel comprising:

~~at least one~~two side edges of each said panel having a flange extension along at least a portion of the length of said side edge;

said side edge of said panel which immediately adjoins said flange extension having a ~~concave-female~~ interlock component~~indentation~~ along the length of said side edge;

the interior of said ~~concave-female~~ interlock component~~indentation~~ having two opposing surfaces, one of which is flat and the other of which has one or more convex protrusions, with said protrusions directed toward said flat interior surface;

said convex protrusions being capable of being temporarily plastically flexibly displaced or deformed, or both;

each side edge of said panel not having said flange extension and not having said ~~concave-female~~ interlock component~~indentation~~ having instead a male interlock component~~extension~~;

said male interlock component~~extension~~ having on its ~~its~~ surface one or more protrusions and corresponding indentations;

said convex protrusions on the said male interlock component ~~extension~~ being capable of being temporarily plastically flexibly displaced or deformed, or both;

said convex protrusions on said interior wall of said ~~concave-female interlock component~~ indentation being configured and positioned to mesh with and interface with the corresponding protrusions and corresponding indentations on said male interlock component ~~extension~~ upon the male interlock component ~~extension~~ being inserted into said ~~concave-female interlock component~~ indentation;

each said flange extension extending for a minimum width from said side edge of said panel a distance at least as wide as the diameter of the head of a screw by which said panel can be affixed to a ceiling; and

each said flange extension having at least one hole through which a screw for affixing the said panel to said ceiling can be inserted.

Claim 4. (currently amended): The ~~device~~ panel of Claim 1 wherein the said surface of any said protrusion is coated, treated or otherwise conditioned or textured to thereby increase the coefficient of friction between the said surface and any other surface with which it ~~may be~~ is in contact.

Claim 5. (currently amended): The ~~device~~ panel of Claim 2 wherein the said surface of any said protrusion is coated, treated or otherwise conditioned or

textured to thereby increase the coefficient of friction between the said surface and any other surface with which it ~~may be~~is in contact.

Claim 6. (currently amended): The ~~device~~panel of Claim 3 wherein the said surface of any said protrusion is coated, treated or otherwise conditioned or textured to thereby increase the coefficient of friction between the said surface and any other surface with which it ~~may be~~is in contact.

Claim 7. (currently amended): A flat panel constructed of ~~tin~~thin sheet metal material for installation on a ceiling as a component of a matrix grid of multiple said panels, with each said panel comprising:

~~at least one~~two side edges of each said panel, and located on no more than two contiguous side edges of said panel, having a flange extension along at least a portion of the length of said side edge;

said side edge of said panel which immediately adjoins said flange having a ~~concave-female~~ interlock component~~indentation~~ along at least a portion of the length of said side edge for insertion of a male interlock component~~extension~~ in the course of installation of a ceiling;

the interior of said ~~concave-female~~ interlock component~~indentation~~ having two opposing interior surfaces, one of which is flat and the other of which has one or more protrusions, with said protrusions directed toward said flat interior surface;

each said protrusion of the female interlock component being perpendicular to the plane of said interior surface;

each side edge of said panel not having said flange extension and not having said ~~concave-female~~ interlock component~~indentation~~ having instead a male interlock component~~extension~~;

said male interlock component~~extension~~ having on ~~it's~~ its surface one or more protrusions perpendicular to the plane of said surface; and

said protrusions on said interior wall of said ~~concave-female~~ interlock component ~~indentation~~ being configured and positioned to mesh with and interface with the corresponding protrusions on said male interlock component~~extension~~ upon the male interlock component~~extension~~ being inserted into said ~~concave-female~~ interlock component~~indentation~~.

Claim 8. (currently amended): A flat panel constructed of ~~tin~~ sheet metal material for installation on a ceiling as a component of a matrix grid of multiple said panels, with each said panel comprising:

~~at least one~~ two side edges of each said panel, and no more than located on two contiguous side edges of said panel, having a flange extension along at least a portion of the length of said side edge;

said side edge of said panel which immediately adjoins said flange having a ~~concave-female~~ interlock component~~indentation~~ along at least a portion of the

length of said side edge for insertion of a male extension in the course of installation of a ceiling;

the interior of said ~~concave-female~~ interlock component~~indentation~~ having two opposing interior surfaces, one of which is flat and the other of which has one or more protrusions, with said protrusions directed toward said flat interior surface;

each said protrusion being perpendicular to the plane of said interior surface;

each side edge of said panel not having said flange extension and not having said ~~concave-female~~ interlock component~~indentation~~ having instead a male interlock component~~extension~~;

said male interlock component~~extension~~ having on it's surface one or more protrusions perpendicular to the plane of said surface;

said protrusions on said interior wall of said ~~concave-female~~ interlock component~~indentation~~ being configured and positioned to mesh with and interface with the corresponding protrusions on said male interlock component~~extension~~ upon the male interlock component~~extension~~ being inserted into said ~~concave-female~~ interlock component~~indentation~~;

each said flange extension extending for a minimum width from said side edge of said panel a distance at least as wide as the diameter of the head of a screw by which said panel can be affixed to a ceiling; and

each said flange extension having at least one hole through which a screw for affixing the said panel to said ceiling can be inserted.

Claim 9. (currently amended): The ~~device~~ flat panel of Claim 7 wherein the said surface of any said protrusion is coated, treated or otherwise conditioned or textured to thereby increase the coefficient of friction between the said surface and any other surface with which it ~~may be~~ is in contact.

Claim 10. (currently amended): The ~~device~~ flat panel of Claim 8 wherein the said surface of any said protrusion is coated, treated or otherwise conditioned or textured to thereby increase the coefficient of friction between the said surface and any other surface with which it ~~may be~~ is in contact.

Claim 11. (currently amended): A method for installation of ceiling panels, wherein each of said ceiling panels includes ~~at least one~~ two female interlock component concave/female side edges and ~~at least one~~ two convex/male interlock component side edges, with said female interlock component concave/female side side edge also having a flange extending away from the said ceiling panel, with said flange having at least one hole, comprising:

inserting a male interlock component side edge of a first ceiling panel into a female interlock component concave/female side edge of an adjacent second

ceiling panel, whereby ~~the said first panel and the said second panel are~~
interlocked with each other;

placing ~~the said first ceiling panel~~ in direct contact with an overhead
ceiling;

inserting one or more sheetrock screws through said hole or holes in said
flange on the female interlock component ~~concave/female-side edge of the said~~
first ceiling panel; and

rotating the said sheetrock screws into ~~the said a sheetrock material to~~
hold the first panel to the ceiling and preventing the second panel from falling
while attaching the second panel to the sheetrock material.

Claim 12. (currently amended): A method for installation of ceiling panels
directly to a sheetrock ceiling, wherein each of said ceiling panels includes at
~~least one~~two female interlock component ~~concave/female-side edges~~ and at
~~least one~~two male side edges, with said female interlock component
~~concave/female-side edge~~ also having a flange extending away from ~~the said~~
ceiling panel, with said flange having at least one hole, comprising:

inserting a male interlock component side edge of a first ceiling panel into
~~a the female interlock component~~ ~~concave/female-side edge~~ of an adjacent
second ceiling panel which has already been affixed to said ceiling, whereby ~~the~~
said first panel and ~~the said second panel~~ are interlocked with each other, said

first panel is held in position near said ceiling and prevented from falling by said male and female interlock components;

placing the said first ceiling panel in contact with an overhead sheetrock ceiling;

inserting one or more sheetrock screws through said hole or holes in said flange on the female interlock component ~~concave/female-side~~ edge of the said first ceiling panel; and

rotating the said sheetrock screws into ~~the~~ said sheetrock.

Claim 13. (currently amended): The method of claim 12, wherein said male edge is a ~~convex-male~~ interlock component side edge.